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Appln. No.:  
Amdt. dated:  
Preliminary Amendment

PATENT

Attorney Docket: 2863

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): David C. Racenet

Serial No.: To Be Assigned Art Unit: Unknown

Filed: Concurrently Herewith Examiner: Unknown

For: **TOOL ASSEMBLY FOR A SURGICAL STAPLING DEVICE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification are reflected beginning on page 2 of this paper.

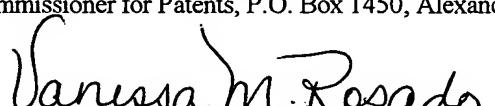
Amendments to the Claims are reflected beginning on page 3 of this paper.

The Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as enclosed are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on date below in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mail Label Number EU 799732855 US addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: 3/30/05

  
Vanessa M. Rosado